

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### REAR AXLE, SUSPENSION AND FINAL DRIVE

This chapter contains repair and replacement procedures for the rear wheels, rear axle, suspension and final drive unit.

Rear suspension specifications are listed in **Table 1** and torque specifications in **Table 2**. **Table 1** and **Table 2** are at the end of this chapter.

#### WARNING

*Self-locking nuts are used to secure some of the rear suspension components. Honda recommends discarding all self-locking nuts once they have been removed. The self-locking portion of the nut is weakened once the nut has been removed and will no longer properly lock onto the mating threads. Always install new self-locking nuts. Never reinstall a used nut once it has been removed.*

#### REAR WHEELS

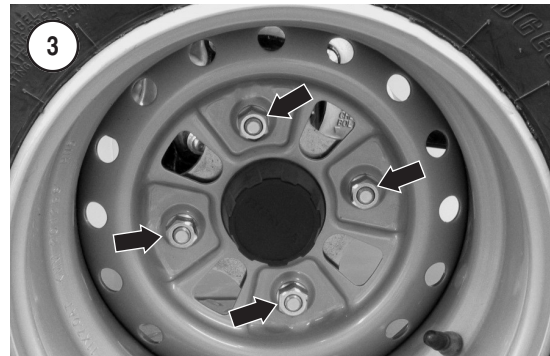
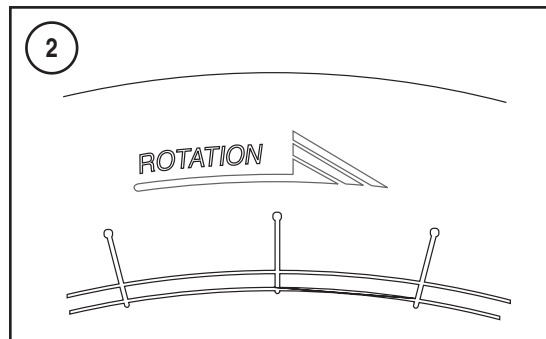
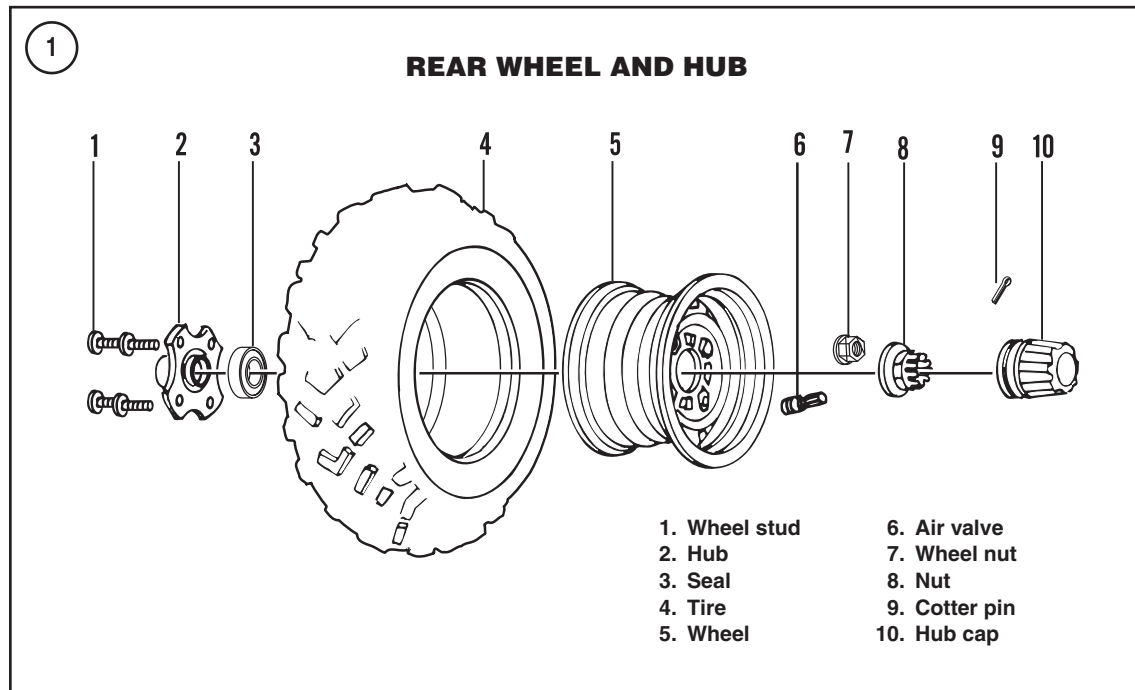
Refer to **Figure 1**.

#### Removal/Installation

#### NOTE

*The tire tread on the original-equipment tires is directional and must be installed on the correct side of the ATV. The tire is marked with an arrow to indicate forward rotation (**Figure 2**).*

1. Park the ATV on level ground and set the parking brake. Block the front wheels so the ATV cannot roll in either direction.
2. If the tires are not equipped with a mark to indicate forward rotation, identify the rear tires with an L (left side) or R (right side) mark. Refer to these marks to install the wheels on the correct side.
3. Loosen the wheel nuts (**Figure 3**) securing the wheel to the hub/brake drum.
4. Jack up the rear of the ATV so the rear wheel(s) is off the ground. Support the vehicle with safety stands or wooden blocks in the event the jack fails.



Make sure they are properly placed before beginning work.

5. Remove the wheel nuts and remove the rear wheel.

6. Clean the wheel nuts in solvent and dry them thoroughly.

7. Inspect the wheel for cracks, bending or other damage. If necessary, replace the wheel as described in *Tires and Wheels* in Chapter Ten.

8. Install the wheel onto its original side.

9. Install the wheel nuts with their curved end (**Figure 4**) facing toward the wheel. Tighten the nuts finger-tight to center the wheel squarely against the brake drum or hub.

10. Tighten the wheel nuts (**Figure 3**) to 64 N·m (47 ft.-lb.).

11. After the wheel is installed completely, rotate it and then apply the rear brake several times to make sure the wheel rotates freely and the brake is operating correctly.

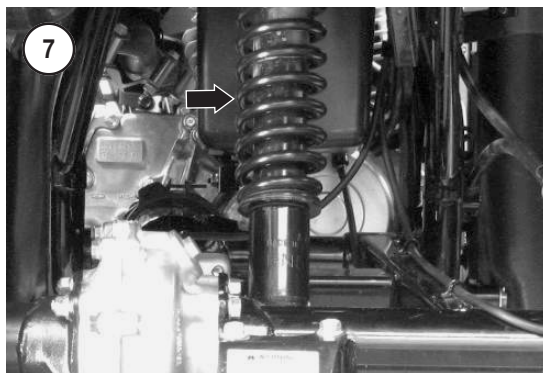
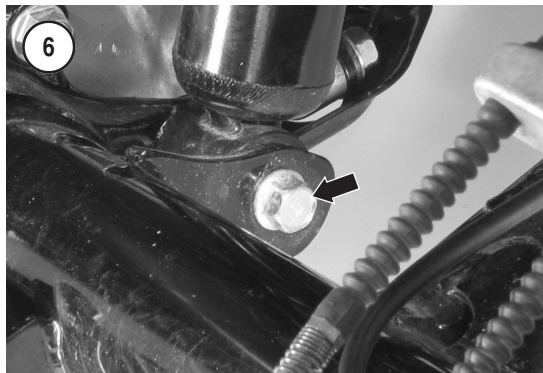
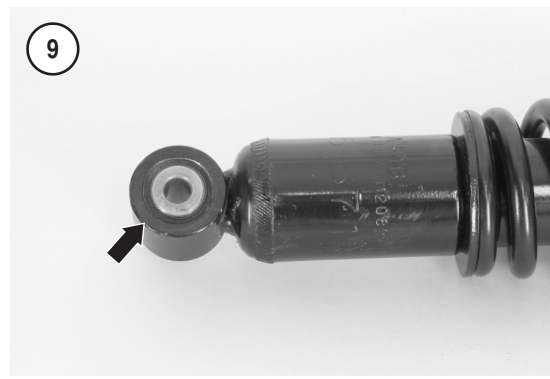
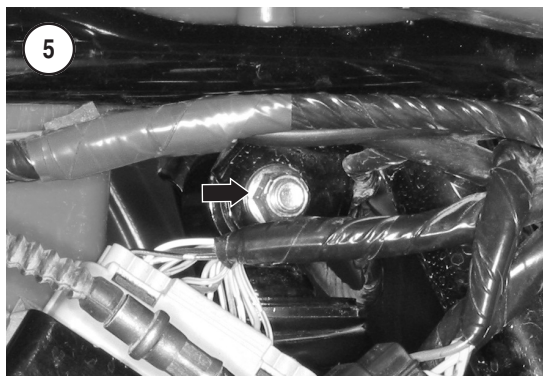
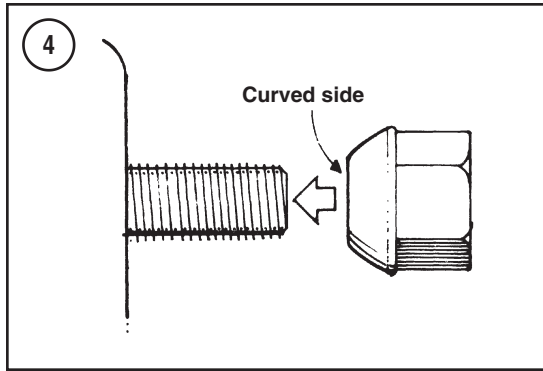
12. Jack up the rear of the vehicle and remove the safety stands or wooden blocks.

13. Lower the ATV so both rear wheels are on the ground and remove the jack.

## SHOCK ABSORBER

### Removal/Installation

1. Support the rear of the ATV so the rear wheels are off the ground.



2. Place a support under the final drive to support the rear axle assembly.
3. Remove the shock absorber upper mounting locknut (**Figure 5**). Discard the locknut.
4. Remove the shock absorber lower mounting bolt (**Figure 6**).
5. Remove the shock absorber (**Figure 7**).
6. Inspect the shock absorber as described in this chapter.
7. Install the shock absorber by reversing the removal steps, while noting the following:
  - a. Install a new locknut on the upper mounting bolt.
  - b. Tighten the upper and lower shock absorber bolts to 44 N•m (33 ft.-lb.).

### Inspection

1. Clean and dry the shock absorber (**Figure 8**).
2. Check the damper unit for leaks or other damage. Inspect the damper rod for bending.
3. Inspect the upper and lower rubber bushings (**Figure 9**). Replace a severely worn or damaged lower bushing. The upper bushing is not replaceable.

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